



# **2016-2017 Annual Report**

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**Serve Wisconsin**



**SCOTT WALKER**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**STATE OF WISCONSIN**

P.O. Box 7863  
MADISON, WI 53707

February 2, 2018

Dear AmeriCorps Members and Supporters,

I congratulate the 748 Wisconsin AmeriCorps members who completed over 910,000 hours of service during the 2016-2017 program year! Your dedication to service profoundly impacts local communities as shown by the outstanding achievements detailed in this report such as 3,607 students improving their academic performance, 3,191 homeless youth returning home or to a safe alternative and 239 economically disadvantaged students enrolling in college.

AmeriCorps' impact goes beyond these incredible results. AmeriCorps shapes young adults personally and professionally, starting them on the journey to becoming the future leaders of Wisconsin. AmeriCorps members gain valuable work experience in areas including communications, leadership and project management while serving others and experiencing firsthand the importance of community.

AmeriCorps members cultivate strong professional and social networks within their communities that connect them to Wisconsin long after their service has ended. Many AmeriCorps alumni choose to make the great State of Wisconsin their home. I encourage current AmeriCorps members to follow this path, to use your education award and future employment to continue making a difference in Wisconsin communities across the state.

I also extend a heartfelt thank you to the nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups that make AmeriCorps possible. Your dedication to serving those in need and developing the next generation of Wisconsin leaders is commendable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Walker".

Governor Scott Walker





Above: AmeriCorps Members from across the state celebrate at the 2016 Wisconsin AmeriCorps Opening Ceremony.

Below: The NCCAP AmeriCorps Team gathers outside of Wausau City Hall.

## 2016-2017 IMPACT

748 AmeriCorps members served over 910,000 hours in Wisconsin communities with the following results:



8,811 students received environmental education



6,345 students received nutrition education



233 farmers provided healthy, local food for school lunches and snacks and engaged with students through presentations and/or school visits



3,607 students showed improved academic performance



239 economically disadvantaged students enrolled in post-secondary institutions



1,661 individuals with disabilities participated in therapeutic recreational activities



15 economically disadvantaged AmeriCorps members obtained GEDs and 25 obtained employment



5 single-family homes were constructed and sold to low-income individuals, families, or people with disabilities



44,680 contacts were made with youth living on the streets



3,191 homeless or runaway youth accepted additional services and returned home or to a safe alternative



2,236 individuals received information on health insurance, health access, or health benefits programs

35 organizations implemented three or more effective volunteer management practices





# Snapshots from the 2016-2017 AmeriCorps Program Year



Above: AmeriCorps alumnus Mark J. Lindquist gives the keynote address at the 2016 Wisconsin AmeriCorps Opening Ceremony at Devil's Head Resort.

Left: Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps members pose for a picture during the 2016 Wisconsin AmeriCorps Opening Ceremony.

Right: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee Art Advocate AmeriCorps member Shayne Pryor leads an art project with a group of club members.







**Left: Partners for Afterschool Success (PASS)**  
AmeriCorps members hike and do trail maintenance during their alternative spring break trip to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

**Below: Partners for Afterschool Success (PASS)**  
AmeriCorps members clean up Lakeview Woods on Earth Day.



**Bottom Right: AmeriCorps members with Milwaukee Christian Center YouthCorps**  
take a tour of the new Milwaukee Bucks arena with Mortenson Construction.





Below: Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee Kinder Academy AmeriCorps member Hannah Swenson poses for a picture with two campers during their visit to the zoo.



Above: Ayah Sarsour, an AmeriCorps member with Teach for America Milwaukee, leads a mock debate on school policies as part of an election cycle simulation to teach students about the election process and the importance of voting.

Below: AmeriCorps and Senior Corps representatives unite at a Dane County Board of Supervisors Meeting for a proclamation of support for national service on Mayor and County Recognition Day .









# 2016-2017 AmeriCorps Member Reflections

## Reflection of Service by Ashley Kavalauskas AmeriCorps Member with Teach for America Milwaukee

This year, I came in with the goal to help my students find who they wanted to be and what they wanted to do. I started the lessons with my four and five year olds and used their personal classroom mission statements to guide different ideas. Our classroom had a full wall of different careers available to our students and each week we focused on two different jobs they could pursue. My favorite week was teaching the students about becoming doctors. We spent three days learning about the ins and outs of what it could look like to be doctor. We spent a day working with a baby doll as our patient, learning about the idea of helping others and making them feel better. We took a day to learn about vaccinations and how they might be scary but they can help keep us safe and healthy. Our final day focused on creating our own doctor kits and learning the different names of tools. In the picture, you see the students wearing some various tools and holding a bag with their names on the front. Inside of the bag, the students cut out different tools we had learned the name of and colored them to look like different tools. It was so inspiring to see how excited they students got talking about the possibility of their futures and learning that they are capable of doing anything they desire.



## Reflection of Service by Kellie Strinz AmeriCorps Member with Partners for Afterschool Success

PASS AmeriCorps creates change makers. PASS is an exceptional program that exemplifies community based programming, focused on youth voice and creative approaches to youth engagement. Offering us the ability to work and learn in our community building skills through positive youth interactions, creative programming, and the space to build our identity as leaders. While we mentored youth to achieve their best, PASS AmeriCorps mentored and supported us to become community leaders. We build an awareness of the intersection of community, culture, youth development, non-profit work, program development, and evaluation. This service opportunity laid the foundation of skills, knowledge, and community understanding, marking the beginning of our journey - no matter where we end up in our professions or careers, PASS AmeriCorps profoundly shaped our professional identity, our commitment to community development, and our desire to make change.



## Reflection of Service by Liam Krueger AmeriCorps Member with Milwaukee Christian Center YouthBuild

I'm serving my second term with Milwaukee Christian Center's YouthBuild/AmeriCorps program. When I started my first term, I had a high school diploma and a driver's license, but I hadn't ever had a job and didn't have any job skills. I was also very, very shy. I hardly talked to anyone, and I didn't even like to look people in the eye. After a few weeks in the program, I started to get more comfortable with the staff and other members, and I started to realize I could do the work. I got to see how a house goes together from the ground up. I learned how to frame, install insulation, install windows, hang dry wall, hang doors, everything that it takes. When the house was done, I got to meet the people who bought it. That was really exciting, especially when the little kids wanted to show all the members their rooms and where they were going to put their swing set in the back yard.

I have to say that I never thought of myself as the best carpenter, or the smartest person in the group; but I came every day, I arrived on time, and I listened and followed directions. I found out how this pays off when an opportunity arose in the spring of 2016. The Milwaukee Christian Center was approached to enter into a partnership with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and Veolia Corporation on a waterway clean-up project. MCC would provide the crew on the Lynyrd Skimmer, a boat that cleans debris from the rivers and Inner Harbor. Because of my excellent attendance and punctuality record, I was recommended for one of the two positions. It was wonderful work, and I got to feel like I was still serving the community in some way, keeping the rivers clean so that the community can enjoy them. The work was hot and sometimes stinky, but you forgot that when people shouted "Thanks" and waved and gave you high fives from the Riverwalk.

As the summer came to a close, and the river cleaning season came to an end, I began to think about the future. I still felt I had a lot to learn, and I wanted to continue to serve the community. What better way than to serve another AmeriCorps term? I applied for one of the three full-time AmeriCorps positions at MCC. I am now a construction site assistant. My job is to model, mentor, and motivate the part-time members. I assist the site supervisor, showing new members the basics of construction, running errands for the supervisor, and learning more advanced carpentry skills.

I can't express how much of an impact AmeriCorps service has had on me. I am no longer so shy. I can step up and talk to anyone. I am proud to look people in the eye, because I know I have made a contribution to my community, and I will always be willing to step up and volunteer, because I have learned that is how to get things done.



Above: Milwaukee Christian Center YouthBuild AmeriCorps members constructing a home that will be sold to a low-income individual, family, or person with disabilities.



# 2016-2017 AmeriCorps State Programs

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## **Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee**

- **SPARK**– AmeriCorps members provide tutoring sessions and small group reading activities to students in grades K-3 in order to improve literacy.
- **Camp Whitcomb/Mason Environmental Education Initiative**– AmeriCorps members create, implement and lead youth through environmental education lessons and activities.
- **Arts Initiative**– AmeriCorps members develop, manage, and implement a comprehensive arts program and serve youth ages 6-18 in visual and performing arts in afterschool clubs.
- **Summer Slide Prevention**– AmeriCorps members lead lessons with literacy and math concepts embedded to intellectually engage kids, ages 7-9, over the summer.
- **Kinder Academy**– AmeriCorps members lead group activities for kids entering kindergarten, teaching basic skills and concepts needed to begin school, ready to learn.
- **Graduation Plus**– AmeriCorps members lead tutoring, academic advising, and college preparation activities for high school students who display indicators of high academic risk for failure.

## **College Possible- Milwaukee**

AmeriCorps members provide intensive coaching and support to low-income high school and college students in order to make college admission and success possible.

## **Dane County Department of Human Services– Partners for Afterschool Success (PASS)**

AmeriCorps members are placed in predominately low-income or resources scarce communities to enhance the academic achievement and school engagement of middle and high school youth through positive relationships, literacy tutoring, extended learning programs and volunteer service.



Above: Easter Seals Wisconsin AmeriCorps member Rebecca Johnson enjoys a ride with a camper.

## **Easter Seals Wisconsin AmeriCorps Partnership**

AmeriCorps members provide intensive personal care and lead or facilitate therapeutic recreation activities for individuals with disabilities and their families at Camp Wawbeek and Respite Camp. AmeriCorps members also provide therapeutic recreation activities for veterans and their family members at Veteran Family Camps.

## **Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps Afterschool**

AmeriCorps member provide support to afterschool programs through promoting academic success, personal/social development and healthy active living for youth ages 8-18.

## **Marshfield Clinic AmeriCorps Volunteer Wisconsin**

AmeriCorps members are placed in non-profits across the state to increase their capacity to effectively engage and utilize volunteers.



### **Milwaukee Christian Center- YouthCorps**

AmeriCorps Members make a tangible impact on their community through the construction of affordable, energy-efficient housing and accessible home modifications, while gaining job and leadership skills, improving their education, and developing community through service.

### **North Central Community Action Program AmeriCorps Team– Greater Wausau Area**

AmeriCorps members provide direct services to youth and their families as mentors and tutors during and after school. Members serve elementary, middle school, and high school students.

### **Public Allies Milwaukee**

AmeriCorps members work on service projects that enhance and expand the capacity of nonprofit organizations to deliver critical direct services to Milwaukee residents.

### **Renewal Unlimited, Inc. Fresh Start Program**

AmeriCorps members construct two single-family homes that are sold to low- and moderate- income families. While working on the houses, members develop educational, pre-employment, job, independent living, and leadership skills.

### **Teach for America– Milwaukee**

AmeriCorps members lead classrooms across the city of Milwaukee while growing and strengthening the movement for educational equality and excellence.

### **United Way of Dane County Achievement Connections**

AmeriCorps members tutor high school students in math and leverage additional volunteers to provide tutoring with the goal of increasing the number of students who pass Algebra by 10th grade.

### **United Way of Dane County Schools of Hope AmeriCorps Project**

AmeriCorps members work with school staff to increase the academic performance of students of color and those from low-income families through literacy tutoring. Members also work as coordinators for community volunteer tutors.

### **University of Wisconsin– Eau Claire– ECLIPSE**

AmeriCorps members provide one-on-one interventions to 3-5 year-old children who are at risk and/or from low-income families to help grow their language, literacy, and social interaction skills.

### **University of Wisconsin– Oshkosh– Vet Corps**

AmeriCorps members are a key resource for veterans and military families and recruit/manage volunteers from the community, with an objective of including more veteran volunteers in community service. VetCorps offers meaningful service opportunities to student veteran AmeriCorps members to support their transition from military to civilian life student.

### **Western Dairyland EOC, Inc.– Fresh Start**

AmeriCorps members construct new homes for income-eligible families in the local community while working on achieving high school diplomas/HSEDs, developing career goals, improving self-esteem and alleviating barriers to economic self-sufficiency.



Above: Schools of Hope AmeriCorps member Shao Deng reads to an elementary school student.



**Wisconsin Association for Homeless and Runaway Services**  
AmeriCorps members provide street outreach services to homeless youth through one-on-one contact and upon referrals and in collaboration police departments, schools and other youth-serving agencies.

**Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection- Farm to School**

AmeriCorps members introduce fresh, local, sustainably produced food to students and provide hands-on nutrition education to improve childhood nutrition and increase the amount of local produce in the school lunch program.

**Wisconsin Primary Health Care Association Wisconsin-HealthCorps**

AmeriCorps members are placed in community health centers, public health departments and health focused non-profits in order to serve as patient navigators, health educators, and community outreach specialists.



Above: College Possible Milwaukee AmeriCorps member Tommy Grodzicki poses in the hallway with Isaias Guzman from South Division High School.

## 2017 Governors Service Recognition



Above: The 2017 Governor's Service Recognition Honorees pose with their awards and award presenters.  
BACK (left to right): Richard Esparza, Shirley Heck, Lori Whelan, c/CPL Andrew VanderPutten, Tom Devine, Brian Blahnik, Bonnie Andrews, Margie Zutter, Shelly Kaiser, FRONT (left to right): Edie Turnbull, Alicia Falon Jarrett, Tom Poppe, Millie Polinkse, Gene Kundert, Tiffany Xiong, Tony Omernik, and c/CPL Madison Skalmusky.



## 2017 Governors Service Recognition Honorees

### AmeriCorps Member of the Year

**Tiffany Xiong**

Partners for Afterschool Success (PASS)

### AmeriCorps Program of the Year

**College Possible Milwaukee**

### AmeriCorps VISTA Participant of the Year

**Alicia Falon Jarrett**

UW-Parkside AmeriCorps VISTA Project

### Senior Corps Participant of the Year

**Millie Polinske**

CESA 10 Foster Grandparent Program

### Veteran Volunteer of the Year

**Chris Lauerman**

Wisconsin Army Cadets

### Volunteer Engagement Honoree

**Tony Omernik**

United Way RSVP of Marathon County

### Marty Stein Friend of National Service Exemplary Supporter

**Tom Devine**



Above: Richard Esparza, a College Possible Milwaukee AmeriCorps alumnus, presents AmeriCorps Program of the Year to Edie Turnbull, Executive Director of College Possible Milwaukee.

Below: Millie Polinske poses for a photo with her award presenters Lori Whelan and Bill Tourdot following her recognition as Senior Corps Participant of the Year.



## The Wisconsin State Commission

Serve Wisconsin, the Wisconsin National and Community Service Board, was established January 28, 1994, by Governor Tommy G. Thompson under Executive Order "to encourage service and volunteer participation as a means of community and state problem-solving; to promote and support voluntary citizen involvement in government and private programs throughout the state; to develop a long-term vision and plan of action for community service initiatives in Wisconsin; and to serve as the state's liaison to national and state organizations which support its mission."

Serve Wisconsin is governed by a 21-member citizen body appointed by the Governor to support community service and volunteerism. Federal AmeriCorps resources from the Corporation for National and Community Service are awarded to organizations seeking to deliver services through an evidence-based approach to creating community solutions.



## Serve Wisconsin Staff

**Jeanne Duffy**  
Executive Director

**Steven Yule**  
Senior Program Officer

**Casey Sweeney**  
Program Officer

**Kara Rivers**  
Program Officer

**Alexis Matthews**  
Program Officer

**Daria Rydzak**  
Community Engagement  
Specialist

**Margie Kriel**  
Auditor



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## Wisconsin National and Community Service Board

**Paula Horning**  
Board Chair  
Community-Based Agency  
Representative

**Christine Beatty**  
Board Vice Chair  
Older Adult Volunteerism  
Representative

**Angela Ahlgrim**  
Business Representative

**Lisa Delmore**  
Community-Based Agency  
Representative

**State Superintendent  
Tony Evers**  
Designee: Scott Jones  
Dept. of Public Instruction

**Robert Griffith**  
Volunteer Sector  
Representative

**Anthony Hallman**  
Youth Development  
Representative

**Kate Jaeger**  
National Service Program  
Representative

**Jane Moore**  
Youth Development  
Representative

**Secretary Scott Neitzel**  
Designee: James Langdon  
Dept. of Administration

**Susan Schwartz**  
Community-Based Agency  
Representative

**Pamela Wheeler Charles**  
Volunteer Sector  
Representative

**Secretary Ray Allen**  
Designee: Maura Kirkham  
Dept. of Workforce Development  
EX-OFFICIO

**Adjunct General Donald P.  
Dunbar**  
Designee: Michael Hinman  
Dept. of Military Affairs  
EX-OFFICIO

**Secretary Linda Seemeyer**  
Designee: Amy McDowell  
Dept. of Health Services  
EX-OFFICIO

**Secretary Daniel  
Zimmerman**  
Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
EX-OFFICIO

**Wisconsin State Director**  
The Corporation for National and  
Community Service  
EX-OFFICIO